

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA, PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know whether the Government have considered the possibility of working this as a State concern?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): No, Sir.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know from the member for what industrial purposes monazite and ilmenite are used?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I have already stated about the use of monazite. Ilmenite is used for the manufacture of Titanium white, etc.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know whether these firms are working for various terms now?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Yes, Sir.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know for how many years they have been working?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): They were started at different periods and it will be within three years since they have begun to work.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know whether they ship ilmenite also?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): They do.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): May I know the average amount of royalty collected from these firms annually?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): Rs. 30,000 is the minimum royalty for the Travancore Minerals Company Ltd.; Rs. 16,000 is the royalty for Messrs Hopkin & Williams Ltd.; Rs. 1,000 is the minimum for Messrs. F. X. Pereira and Sons; and Rs. 1,000 Mr. E. Masillamani.

MR. R. SAMBASIVA AIYAR (*Kunnatnad II*): May I know whether the amounts mentioned relate to any particular year?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): That is the minimum fixed for one year.

MR. N. K. KRIHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): May I know whether there is any penalty clause in this agreement?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): What penalty clause, please?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara I*): That is if all these companies do not work, will the licenses issued to them be cancelled?

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Director of Industries*): I cannot say off-hand, Sir, unless I go through the whole agreement.

Police firing at the Mosque at Quilon.

178 *MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Ramachandra Rao, acting Devicolam Commissioner, was appointed as special officer to conduct an enquiry in connection with the shooting of the Quilon mosque by the Police;

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, when he was appointed to make an enquiry ;

(c) whether, after the enquiry, he has submitted a report to the Government ;

(d) if so, when the report was submitted to Government ; and

(e) what action has been taken by the Government on that report ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) :

(a) Yes.

(b) 12th October 1934.

(c) Yes.

(d) 5th December 1934.

(e) The report is under the consideration of Government.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : May I know from the Government the reasons for appointing a special officer to make an enquiry in connection with the firing at the Quilon Mosque ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Government wanted to know the real facts and so they appointed a special officer to make an enquiry and report.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : May I know from how many persons the special officer took evidence in connection with the enquiry ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot give these details. The report is a confidential document.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : May I know who are the persons from whom evidence was taken ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have already said that the report is a confidential document. I cannot divulge its contents.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : May I know from Government the nature of the evidence taken and the nature of the report furnished by the special officer.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The report is confidential.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : When did the shooting take place ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : On the Sri Jayanthi day in Chingom this year.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : Was the situation at Quilon so serious as to appoint a special officer to hold an enquiry ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : It is dealt with in the report of Mr. Ramachandria Rao and that is a confidential document.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : May I know who were the officers present on the occasion ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have no information.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Always*) : Who was the District Magistrate at Quilon then ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The permanent District Magistrate was on leave and the First Class Magistrate was acting as District Magistrate.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Who is responsible for firing?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the District Magistrate was present at that time?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have no information. I claim notice.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Is it not a fact that the Police fired at the Mosque before receiving the orders of the District Magistrate?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say.

PRESIDENT: I am afraid questions are being pursued more or less on the nature of the enquiry and on the nature of the contents of the report. The Government member has already stated that the report has been treated as confidential. Therefore the member cannot pursue with any advantage by going on putting a string of questions on the same when it has been repeatedly answered that the document is confidential.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know what was the special reason for firing?

PRESIDENT: Again you are harping on questions which cannot be allowed. The special officer must have investigated the matter and expressed an opinion. The Government member has stated that the report is confidential.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know from the member what would have been the attitude of the aggrieved party?

PRESIDENT: That is a hypothetical question.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether representations have been received by Government in this matter even from persons outside Travancore stating that necessary action must be taken against those who were responsible for firing?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Then may I know what is the inordinate delay for Government in arriving at a decision?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have stated more than once that the matter is under the anxious consideration of Government.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that there is a great discontent among the Muslims of Travancore?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware of the exact extent of the discontent among the Muslims.

MR. K. MAHOMED (Alwaye): Are the Government aware that the next Sri Krishna Jayanti day is fast approaching?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (Alwaye): In view of that, will the Government be pleased to take necessary steps at least now to prevent a recurrence of the same?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): The Government will take the necessary steps.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (Nominated): May I know whether the Police Commissioner has taken any action against the high-handed action of police constables?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Government have no information.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (Nominated): May I know whether he has made an independent enquiry into the conduct of his lower subordinates?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Government have no information.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (Nominated): Is the report of the non-official committee under the consideration of Government?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): It is with Government now.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (Nominated): Have the Government realised the importance and gravity of this matter?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): That is the reason why the Government appointed a special officer to enquire into the whole question.

MR. N. ABDUR RAHIMAN SAHIB (Nominated): Do Government realise that such a considerable delay in coming to a conclusion in this matter has caused wide-spread discontent among the Muslim community of the State?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): There has not been such an inordinate delay. The matter is engaging the very earnest attention of Government.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (Nominated): May I know whether the Reserve Police was sent to Quilon from Trivandrum?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Not under the orders of Government.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (Nominated): Are the Government aware that there was a riot when the procession was going on?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): The Government are not aware of any riot having taken place. The whole incident was enquired into and the report submitted by the special officer is engaging the earnest attention of Government.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (Nominated): May I know how many shots were fired at that time?

PRESIDENT : The Government member has said that the matter is engaging the attention of Government.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I): May I know whether Mr. Ramachandara Rao enquired into the conduct of officers who were superior to him in status, in connection with the Quilon incident?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): He was authorised to enquire into the whole question and submit a report.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I): May I know whether the officers involved in it were superior in status and they were found fault with?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): I don't think so.

PRESIDENT : I must say that, even after the repeated statement that the report is a confidential document, it is not right to continue the same question.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (Kalkulam I): May I know what were the reasons that weighed with Government in appointing a special officer to enquire into the matter which could ordinarily be done by the police officers present there?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Government thought that it was necessary to appoint a competent officer to enquire into the incident.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala): May I know whether it is a fact that the Reserve Police from Trivandrum was taken to Quilon in connection with that incident?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): It was not taken under the orders of Government. C.I.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (Tovala): Can the Reserve Police be taken without Government sanction?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): The Police Commissioner can do it.

PRESIDENT : If Government orders have to be obtained in these matters, the Police will perhaps be helpless and the Reserve men will reach the place only after the incident is over.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (Vilavankod): May I know whether there are definite rules to regulate the dispersal of a crowd or the suppression of a riot?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): I claim notice.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (Ambalapuzha I): May I know whether the enquiry conducted by Mr. Ramachandra Rao was one under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (Chief Secretary to Government): Partly it is so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (Ambalapuzha I): May I know whether charges were framed against any specific officer as the case may be?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He summoned witnesses, took their statements and collected evidence.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Sir, my question is different. May I know whether, under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation, there should not be charges framed against specific officers.

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was not a full departmental enquiry that was conducted. There is provision for preliminary enquiry of the kind conducted by Mr. Ramachandra Rao under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Was any specific officer mentioned as the party against whom the enquiry was conducted?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. The special officer was authorised to hold a general enquiry into the whole affair.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Am I to take it that Government could authorise an officer to hold a preliminary enquiry under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think so.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Under what Section, please?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the Regulation with me. I know there is provision for a preliminary enquiry in the Regulation.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether under the Regulation, an enquiry can be conducted on an incident or on the conduct of specific officers?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Both can be brought under the scope of the enquiry.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know what section provides for an enquiry into an incident, under the Departmental Enquiries Regulation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the enquiry conducted was an open enquiry?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The special officer summoned witnesses and took their statements.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether the witnesses were examined *in camera*?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether there is any provision in the Regulation to examine in that manner?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think the special officer could hold a preliminary enquiry in that manner under the Regulation.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know, if the enquiry is an open one, why the report is confidential?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I said that the witnesses were examined *in camera*.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know whether anybody was allowed to be cross-examined?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. PUTUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know, whether, after the submission of the report, the officers concerned against whom charges were framed were subsequently brought to the notice of Government and their explanation obtained?

PRESIDENT; The report is confidential and the Government are considering it.

Firing by the Police at the Mosque at Quilon.

179. *MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the date when they received the report of the Committee appointed by Muslims to enquire into the firing by the Police at the Mosque at Quilon;

(b) the date when they received the report of the Special Officer appointed by Government to enquire into the same firing by the Police at the Mosque at Quilon;

(c) whether they have taken any action on the above reports;

(d) if the answer to part (c) is in the affirmative, the nature of the action taken by them;

(e) if the answer to part (c) is in the negative, the reason why they have not taken any action as yet; and

(f) whether they will be pleased to place on the table copies of the reports submitted to Government by the Special Officer as well as the Muslim Non-official Committee regarding the firing by the Police at the Mosque at Quilon?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(a) 3rd October 1934.

(b) 5th December 1934.

(c) The report is under the consideration of Government.

(d) and (e). In view of the answer to part (c), this does not arise.

(f) A copy of the report received from the Muslim Non-official Committee is available for reference in the office. Mr. Ramachandra Rao's report is a confidential document.

Waiting list of clerks in the Forest Department.

180. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state: